

A Serious  
M E D I T A T I O N  
UPON  
The Dealings of God w<sup>th</sup> England,  
and the State thereof in general.

O England ! thy day of *w<sup>th</sup>er*ation from the *Lord*, hath been exceeding long, and all dealings with thee exceeding wonderfull ; when thou w<sup>th</sup>est in *misery* and cried unto the *Lord*, he heard thee, and delivered thee from thy *oppressors* ; but Oh how quickly hast thou forgotten the loving kindness of the *Lord*, and the Dealings of thy *God* ! Remember the dayes that are past when thou w<sup>th</sup>est in *bondage* and *slavery*, and desired freedome to *worship* the *Lord*, and the *Lord* heard, and granted unto thee thy desire, and also made knowne the way of his *Worship* within thy *Border*, in thy *Town*, in thy *Country*, in thy *Assemblies*, both the *Lord* proclaimed the *Way* of *Life* and *Salvation*, by his *Children* and *Servants* : But oh how hast thou requited the *Lord* for his loving-kindness ! How hast thou intreated his *Servants* with *Prisons*, *Whippings*, and *Kivlings* ; who bare their *Terror* against thy *Wick-edness* ; against thy *Pride* and *Covetousnes*, and *Idolatri* ; but oh how hast thou rejected the Counsel of the *Lord* ; and hast chosen thine *owne* *ways*, and followed thine *owne* *Counsel*, and hardened thy *heart*, and affar-ned thy *w<sup>th</sup>re* ; even like a *Rebellious* people, that would none of the *Law* of the *Lord*, and therefore thou must eat the fruit of thy own doings ; and confess that the *Lord* is just in all his *judgements* upon *Rebels* in all his *judgements* ; for thou hast sinned against the *Lord* ; in that thou hast not performed thy *Promises*, which thou made in the *Day* of thy *Distress* ; and therefore *Distress* must come upon thee *now* ; to bring thee to remember those shinges and *reproves*, which if thou do, the *Lord* will have *mercy* upon thee, and *heal* thy *back-biting* ; but if thou do not, but continue in thy *Rebellion*, the *Lord* will continue his *Judgments* upon thee : Should not the long-suffering of the *Lord* lead thee to *Repentance*, and his gentle dealings with thee by *correction*, cause thee to understand that he loves thee ? but if thou wilt not receive instruction, by all his gentle dealings, but wilt go on in thy *wick-edness* ; What canst thou then expect, but the *indignation* of the *Lord* to fall upon thee ? What doth thou think if thou continue in persecuting the *Servants* of the *Lord* ,

(to wit) those that tell thee of thy *Wickedness*, thy *Pride* and *Covetousness*; dost thou think that that will turn the *Judgments* of God from thee? surely nay, that will but *hasten* *Wrath* and *Misery* upon thy own head; Oh what a day of *visitation* hast thou had! How many times hath the *Lord* delivered thee! and now it may be said by this, as it was once concerning *Israel* of old; *yea then I have shewed unto you my power*, and limited the *bounty* of *Israel*; *when I have brought you out of Egypt*, *and the Day when he delivered them from the Enemy*: Is not this thy condition of *England*? although indeed the *Lord* hath a remnant in thee, that do not bow their *Knees* to *Baal*, nor *your* *own* *children* *worship* in the *Chambers* of *Heaven*; and this remnant are these which thou call **THE MEMBERS OF THE PEACE**, which trouble thee much, because the *troubled Israel*, and this remnant that *Worshippeth* (*I mean* the *false Church* that *paints her self*) would have destroyed, that so her *false Prophets* which feeds at her *Table*, might not be Troubled, but Trouble must come upon them, and their *power* must be broken; and although *Jesus* *but* *came* a *Fayre* to *you* *English*, yet *God* will execute his *judgements* in thee, and if thou say in thy heart, therefore changeth things upon me; for the greatness of these *Iniquities* are thy *sins* discovered, and thy *heels* made bare, for the *Armies* are thy *Adulteries*, and thy *Neighbors*, the *Lowlings* of thy *Wickedness*, and thine *Abominations* on the *Hills*, in the *fields*; *Woe unto thee oh England!* Wilt thou not be made clean, when that is once be?

Oh, What a large *professe* hath been made in thee? What a talk of *Godliness* and *Christianity*, but alas! what is found in thee? Doth not *Pride* and *Envie* abound in thee? and hath not these things greatly displeased the *Lord*? and for this cause is the *anger* of the *Lord* kindled, which will devoure the *Earth* and *Trees* in one day, and in that Day *whether* will you *live*? and *where* will you *leave* your *glory*? you that have glorified in profyng the *Gospel* and *Ordinances*, and even made this a *Covering* for your *Wickedness* and *Abomination*, who make a pretence of seeking the *Glory* of *God*, have sought honour in your selves, and to make your *Name* great on the earth: Is it not even thus of *England*? and, Hath not thy *Prophets* *laid* *down* *for* *mines*, and thy *Priests* that *preach* for *bire*, have not they flattered thee in thy *Iniquities*? Have not they cried, *Peace to thy Rulers*, even until the *power* of the *Lord* hath broken forth against them, and they have been *confounded*? And wilst thou not for all this receive *infirmitie* and *corruption*, but still go on in thy *Wickedness* and *Rebellion* against thy *God*? What *more*, *more*, and *more*, and *more*...

the Servants of the Lord : surely then more and more of the Iniquities of the Lord thou must see : What is it now become a trouble to thee to have reproved in thy *garden*? Dost thou make him an offender that speakest the truth? And do those men that *rebel* against thy Wickedness, break thy *Power*, the power of thy *Rulers*, and the peace of thy *People*? And do thy *Prophets*, that desire for money, and *Priests* that *want* for hire, do they tell thee, that it would be a happiness to thee, if thou were rid of those men that reprove thee for thy *Wickedness*? Do not they even think of England? And do not many of thy People think and sayrise same? What would it be thy happiness to sin without reproof? surely, nay ; for if some they whose souls are vexed with thy *sin*, thy *conversion*, were drawn out of thee ; then would a *bitter* misery come, and the Lord would make thee desolate, even like *Sodom*, and *Gomorrah*, which was overthrown, for an example of his Righteous judgments unto all that would not receive *Injunction*.

Oh how is thy *SILVER* become *Dross*! And thy *LIBERTY* become *bondage*! Oh how art thou gone backward, and not forward! even doating upon thy old *Idols*, and *idolatry*, that they should worship them that have set their minds thereupon ; but thou wouldest worship *them* that *remonstrated* in thee, who are *fellowes* of the *Lamb*, for whose sake the *Lord* hath inflicted *punishment*, and yet thought so foolish, and *knowe*, (as much as in thee lyeth) to influence thy own *Destitution*: What may wickedness besotted in them, and not be reprobred? Is this the *Liberty* that thou now lookst after? Wouldest thou have *Wickedness* established by a *Law*, and the *reprouers* thereof be condemned? Is it not even thus within thy borders? And yet for all this thou *wilts lay upon the Lord*, and say, *No man knoweth me*, no *evil* can come *unto me*? And thy *peace*, *peace*, *sudden destruction* come upon thee from the *Lord*: Oh how often hath the *Lord* invited thee ! and even with his *Love* sought to draw thee unto himself ; but thou hast refused his *loving invitation*, and grieved his *holy* *spirit* from time to time: so that if the *Lord* say, as he often did, concerning *Ephraim*, it is but just; *England* is *payed* to *Iudas*, for *treasons*, and then *desolation* and *misery* will come upon it. When I would comfort my heart against sorrow, it is even faint within me, to consider what *WARNINGS*, from Time to Time hast thou had, and this thou hast, and dost account thy trouble : But greater trouble shall come upon thee from the *Lord*, except thou repaire : Oh how hast thou chosen thy own *ways*, and followed thy own *Counsele*, and would have *Ministers* of thy own making, and *Prophets* which would suffer thee in thy *Wickedness*, and *Prophets* smooth things

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thing unto thee, even the deceit of their own hearts, and this thou hast  
loved rather than claim and honest dealing ; and now what shall the  
Lord do unto thee for those things ? Shall not he ~~recompence~~ thee ac-  
cording to thy ways and doings ? and in that day thou shalt confess to  
his Righteous judgments. How have thy Priests stirred up thy Rulers  
against a harmless people even like as ~~Amazons~~ the Peoples of Babylon  
did, who complained against ~~Amos~~ the Prophet, saying, Amos hath been  
inspired against the King, the Land is not able to bear his words. In like manner  
even thus among thy Priests, Oh England ! exclaims, What have these  
People done against thee, I mean the despised remnant which are called  
**QUAKERS** ? What evil have they done, that thou art so mightily  
troubled ? What do thy Priests say concerning them, do they say they  
are *Hetericks*, and such like ? But *How*, when all others did they prove  
it against them, within thy borders ? it is good for all thy Inhabitants,  
Oh England, to consider of this matter, and not *Imbue* their hands in  
the Blood of the Innocents ; for of a truth the Lord hath raised this Peo-  
ple up within thy borders, to make thee a happy and a blessed Nation ;  
for even in **HIM**, in whom they have believed, the Nations comes to be  
blessed, even in **JE S U S - C H R I S T** the Covenant, the Light which is  
given for a lamp unto the ends of the earth, of whom they have born,  
and do bear their Testimony within thy borders, of which Testimony  
they need never be ashamed ; which if thou shouldest alwaies resist, and  
so on in thy Rebellion, thou wil be most unhappy and Miserable, even  
the world of the Nations : and therefore it is my desire in the bowls of  
love, as being one of thy Inhabitants, who wishing thy welfare, and  
happiness, that thou mayest seriously Meditate upon the dealings of  
God with thee, and upon his loving kindness which hath been, and yet is  
Tendered unto thee ; and that thou mayest return to the Lord, is the  
earnest desire of my soul ; let it be said to thee, as Christ once said to  
**JERUSALEM** : O ENGLAND ENGLAND, when that killst the Pro-  
phets, and stonest them that come unto thee : how often would I have  
gathered thy Children together, as a hen gathereth her Chickens under  
her wings, but thou wouldst not suffer me. And that which is known in this thy  
Day, the things that belong unto present and future hid from us.

JOHN BRAITHWAITE.

THE END.